

**ABSTRACT**

5 Processes and systems are disclosed that use unique "forensic" identifiers to securely deliver and render digital information. The identifiers are produced using information that is capable of identifying specific devices that are to be employed in rendering said information, and may arise from characteristics of the device, its operation or its environment. Because the forensic identifiers can be created from an evaluation of the device or environment in which the information is to be rendered, including at the time of such rendering, the invention does not require that pre-created keys be transferred or handled along with the information to be secured. This generally provides for a greater degree of security than can be realized under prior art models for security. In one embodiment, the invention concerns the use of information unique to a device or a class of devices that will be used to "render" the information (i.e., to translate the digital data into its intended form such as music, images or video). In another embodiment, the identifier is placed in the environment in which such devices are to operate, including, for example, in the electrical supply of a building or region. The identifier -- a forensic identifier-- is used in authentication processes when an attempt is made to transfer, access or render the digital information. Upon a successful authentication process, the requestor will be allowed to access or render the digital information.

10

15

20

25